



The City of Kansas City, Mo.
Neighborhood and Community Services Department
"We're on it, because nothing can stop dedication."



The Neighborhood Navigator

A Quarterly Publication of the Neighborhood Services Division

Summer 2009

"Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass under trees on a summer's day, listening to the murmur of the water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is by no means a waste of time". ~J. Lubbock

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Good Neighbor Award Winners

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has". ~Margaret Meade

The following names are of local residents who have provided a substantial service to our community. The Good Neighbor Award will be presented at an open forum (TBA) of the Kansas City Neighborhood Advisory Council (KCNAC).

Ray Barber-Shoal Brook II

A talented, generous, concerned neighbor and willing handy man that maintains the quality and safety of the neighborhood.

Doug Collins-East Swope Highlands

Keeps the grass mowed on the right of way (row) along the heavily speeding traffic on Gregory Boulevard.

Terry Everley-Marlborough Renaissance

Fondly known through out the neighborhood as Mr. Terry, cuts the weeds in the ROW around the traffic stop signs, checks on the neighbors, willing to lend a hand to help others, picks up trash, repairs the neighborhood's children's bicycles and mentors those without male role models, also informally block watches.

Tammy Gay-Waldo

Mows the lawn for a neighbor whom is recovering from surgery, collects and donates paper goods to the City Mission, actively engaged in the homes association, blocks watch captain, organizes block parties and created the butterfly garden.

Tim Johnston- Briarcliff

Alone, he has walked approximately 1 mile in distance to pick up trash along 169 highway at the Briarcliff Parkway exit in Kansas City, Missouri. He has collected more than 50 each

40 gallon bags of beer bottles, water bottles, pop cans, paper products, car parts, Styrofoam and other litter since Feb 2009. Mr. Johnston recycled the refuse he could and his neighbors assisted his efforts to dispose of the waste properly.

City staff eagerly contacted MODOT to advise their organization of Mr. Johnston's efforts and highly recommended that 1) Adopt a Highway dedicated to Mr. Johnston and 2) a NO MORE TRASH \$1000 litter fine sign be posted in the area he has been cleaning. MODOT will also provide a safety vest and trash bags to assist them in keeping that area clean.

Minnie Mitchem- Noble

Picks up litter and trash all over the neighborhood and has done so for more than 35 years.

Sharon Mohler- Armour Hills

Mother of five young children, takes the time to clean out the neighbors house after a fire, trims the large shrubs in Arbor Villa Park, clears weeds and mows the yard of an elderly neighbor when he is not up to it, organizes block parties and informally block watches.

Steve Shawhan- East Swope Highlands

Picks up litter frequently along the heavily speeding traffic on Gregory Boulevard.



INFORMATION

SERVICES

Housing and Community Development Programs

All programs have income guidelines and specific application requirements; please call 816 513-3025 or visit <http://www.kcmo.org/housing.nsf/web/PropPres> for more information and applications.

Emergency Home Repair Program

The Emergency Home Repair Program assists Kansas City, Mo. homeowners who live in Jackson, Clay and Platte counties who cannot afford to make urgent home repairs. Eligible applicants receive one service. A Community Development Block Grant established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funds this program. Examples of repairs done are: roofing, plumbing-main water line or sewer main, electrical systems and furnace repairs.

Home Weatherization Program

The Home Weatherization Program assists Kansas City, Mo. homeowners or renters with landlord participation who live in Jackson, Clay and Platte counties by providing energy conservation services customized to meet their specific needs. Eligible applicants must receive a Kansas City energy audit to determine the most cost-effective way to correct energy use problems. The program's auditors may suggest replacing or repairing furnaces, water heaters, repairing doors and windows, caulking, weather stripping and installing insulation.

Paint Program

The Paint Program provides free paint and supplies to Kansas City homeowners residing in the property to be painted. The homeowner is responsible for preparing the property before a paint voucher is granted and the homeowner is responsible for painting the property.

Other home repair assistance resources:

The Property Preservation Division may not be able to assist applicants with every need. For further assistance, we suggest contacting your neighborhood organization or one of the organizations listed here. This list does not include all of the many organizations that serve our community.

Christmas in October

(www.christmasinoctober.org) – (816) 531-6443

Painting, ramps and other exterior items

Coalition for Independence (www.cfi-kc.org) – (816) 231-7166

Interior accessibility assistance

Community America Credit Union – (913) 905-6629

First Suburbs Home Equity Loan Program (www.marc.org/firstsuburbs) – low-interest loans

Good Hammer – (816) 421-8048

Contractor referrals and Low-interest loan program

City of Kansas City, Mo., Health Department – (816) 513-6048

Project Lead-Safe Kansas City (www.kcmo.org/health.nsf/web/clppp)

Legal Aid of Western Missouri (www.lawmo.org/offices.htm) – (816) 474-6750

Beneficiary deeds

Kansas City Dream Home Program (www.kcmo.org/planning.nsf/web/kcdream) – lender for citywide program

Community development organizations:

These community development organizations provide home repair assistance to eligible residents of the neighborhoods they serve.

Westside Housing Organization Inc.

(www.westsidehousing.org) – (816) 421-8048

Homeowner education and oversight of home improvement projects

Home improvement grants and loans

Tool lending library

Blue Hills Community Services (www.bhcsmo.org) – (816) 333-7870

Rehabilitation – roof replacement, electrical wiring, sidewalk or porch repair, etc.

Weatherization – window replacement, HVAC, etc.

Accessibility – improvements to accommodate disabilities

Northland Neighborhoods Inc. (www.nni.org) – (816) 454-2000

Home repair services and Home repair grant program

Ivanhoe Neighborhood Council

(www.incthrives.org) – (816) 921-6611

Home repair services

Neighborhood Housing Services of Kansas City Inc. (www.nhsofkc.org) – (816) 822-7703

Home repair services

Code Enforcement Gets A New Tool: YOU!

The Neighborhood Preservation, Dangerous Buildings, and the Neighborhood Services Divisions are working together to present a new tool for neighborhood empowerment this fall: **Citizen Code Enforcement Volunteers (CEVs)**!

This will be a two-step education and action program. The first step is 8 hours of classroom training on Code Enforcement methods and strategies used by the City's code enforcement officers at present. Three Monday night trainings will be held in September at the Southeast Caring Communities CAN Center, 5931 Swope Parkway:

- ✦ September 14th, 6-9PM: Chapter 48 (3 hours)
- ✦ September 21st, 6-9PM: Chapter 56 (3 hours)
- ✦ September 28th, 6-8PM: Court & administrative hearings pitfalls and reasons cases get thrown out, and more details on the CEV process (2 hours)

Note: These times are corrected from the original print edition.

Anyone is welcome to attend these sessions, but because they will each build on the information from the previous week, please make a commitment to attend all three weeks if you are interested. Space is limited, so please call ahead to the CAN Center at 816-444-9300 and reserve your seat.

Following those 8 hours of training, some of you may be interested in becoming a Code Enforcement Volunteer. What that means is that you will be able to assist with initial inspections and follow-up for the Nuisance Code Violations (Chapter 48) that make up the bulk of the residential code enforcement violations.

Code Enforcement Volunteers, or CEVs, will perform inspection checklists and take photos of potential nuisance code violations both initially and after the waiting period has passed, passing the information on to Neighborhood & Community Services Department so that officers can issue summons or citations as necessary. Helping officers manage those initial inspections and follow-up visits in your neighborhood will speed up the process considerably! Because these volunteers will be interfacing directly with the code enforcement officers and using City-provided equipment, those who wish to go through this additional step have a few more requirements placed on them in this program:

- ✦ Their neighborhood/homeowner association must be registered with the City through NCSD, and willing to vouch for the volunteer's involvement with the group. The association must also be incorporated with the State of Missouri.
- ✦ Code Enforcement Volunteers may not be paid employees or board members of their association.
- ✦ Code Enforcement Volunteers must supply a criminal history record check (available through KCPD, at any patrol division headquarters, for \$8)

Questions? Please contact the Neighborhood Services Division at 816-513-3200, or by e-mail at solutions_ncsd@kcmo.org. If this first opportunity is received well, additional instances will follow as time and money permit.

PARTICIPATION

Weeds Be Gone

The City of Kansas City has begun its new mowing program with private contractors to maintain the large number of vacant Jackson County Land Trust lots in the City. Jackson County list 2,660 land trust properties on their website <http://jacksoncountylandtrust.org/proplist.cfm>

These contractors have agreed to mow the Jackson County Land Trust lots at least twice a month, but they only mow what is reported.

The contractors are using large, industrial mowing equipment to clear the vacant properties. They do not trim and edge the lots to the same degree as a homeowner would maintain his/her property. The contractors' equipment is designed to mow as large an area as possible in the shortest amount of time. Sometimes trash, rocks, yard waste, holes, parked cars and illegal dumping will delay the work; however the lots do get mowed and cleaned.

When grass, weeds or vegetation are taller than 10 inches, the lot is in violation according to City of Kansas City code ordinance. If left un-mowed, some lots could grow to become havens for disease-carrying rodents, snakes or rabid raccoons. It is unsafe and unsightly and has no great curb appeal in our neighborhoods and more important it is not in compliance to city codes.

Are you aware of a Jackson County Land Trust lot that needs mowing? Please call the 3-1-1 Action Center to report a Jackson County Land Trust lot that needs mowing. Help us help your neighborhood, please follow the City codes and do not leave debris, parked cars or abandoned vehicles on vacant lots.



UPDATE

Kansas City Neighborhood Advisory Council fills 4 Vacancies

Four vacancies on the Neighborhood Advisory Council (KCNAC) were filled by the remaining current members of the Council. Persons appointed to fill the four vacancies shall hold office until an election of all council seats in November 2009. Candidates for the vacancies on the Council were considered at an open meeting held Tuesday April 7, 2009.

Appointed are the following:

Rebecca K. Fleming	southwest region
Sherita J. Herring	at-large
Patricia G. (Trish) Martin	northeast region
Rodney J. Sampson II	at-large

About Rebecca K Fleming

Rebecca has 30 years law enforcement experience, grant writing experience, understands and has implemented Herman Goldstein's "Broken Window" theory, and was responsible for "Weed & Seed" program at KCPD Central Patrol Division.

About Sherita J. Herring

Sherita has 15 years community mobilization and development within the Los Angeles California communities. She served on their advisory committee for 2 years. She is the host of a radio talk show KGGN

radio (890 am). The radio show focus on empowering communities and community organizations that make a difference in Kansas City neighborhoods.

About Patricia G. (Trish) Martin

Trish is the president of her homes association and an active participant of the Northland Neighborhood Inc. (NNI)

About Rodney J. Sampson II

Rodney has working knowledge of the process and procedures for Neighborhood Preservation and the Municipal Courts.

KCNAC meets every first Tuesday of the month, 4:00 to 5:30 pm in the 4th floor conference room of City Hall, 414 East 12th Street.

For more information, please visit their website at <http://www.kcmo.org/neigh.nsf/web/kcnac>



KCCG Celebrates 30 years of Self Help Gardening

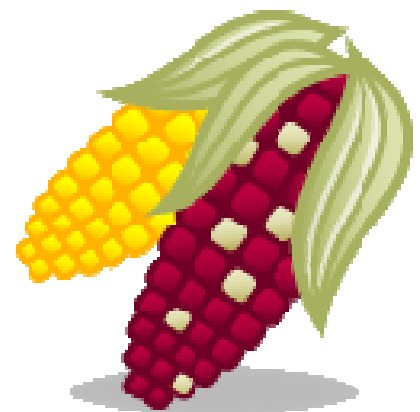
Article Reprinted from kccg.org

In an effort to serve more people, Kansas City Community Gardens has launched an initiative to reach out to metro area organizations and establish more individual and group gardens. Called the Community Partners Program, the effort focuses on non profit groups whose missions include food assistance to low-income residents and seniors, nutrition education and youth support. Other partners focus on building strong neighborhoods. Community gardening can further all these efforts.

A new demonstration food garden has been built at the Harvesters warehouse (<http://www.harvesters.org/>) at 3801 Topping, K.C., Mo. 64129. It demonstrates how urban gardens in backyards, vacant lots and community sites can be a source of nutritious fruits and vegetables. Hopefully, organizations that pick up food at Harvesters will consider how their clients might be served with their own community gardens.

Community Partners organizations also participate by connecting KCCG to individuals who are interested in starting their own backyard or neighborhood gardens. Some groups may bring children to participate in programs at the BEANSTALK children's garden.

If your organization is interested in partnering with Kansas City Community Gardens please call 816 931-3877 or check out the website at <http://www.kccg.org/>



H1N1 Swine Flu FYI

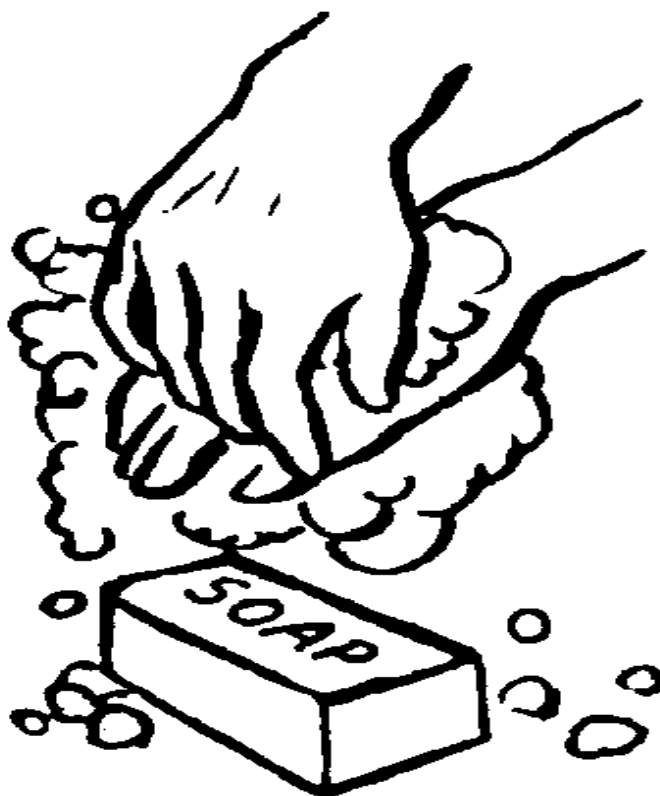
Since the outbreak began in the United States, an increasing number of U.S. states have reported cases of novel H1N1 influenza with associated hospitalizations and deaths. By June 3, 2009, all 50 states in the United States and the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico were reporting cases of novel H1N1 infection. While nationwide [U.S. influenza surveillance systems](#) indicate that overall influenza activity is decreasing in the country at this time, novel H1N1 outbreaks are ongoing in parts of the U.S., in some cases with intense activity.

Under section 319 of the Public Health Service Act, the City Kansas City, Mo., Health Department has increased community wide surveillance for signs and symptoms of flu. The department is also opening lines of communication with the Center of Disease Control (CDC), the state health department and our local health partners.

Residents of Kansas City should be vigilant in washing their hands and coughing into their sleeve or tissue. In the event individuals begin to experience any of the following symptoms, please notify your health care provider.

- Fever greater than 100 degrees Fahrenheit or 37.8 degrees Celsius
- Body Aches
- Coughing
- Sore throat
- Respiratory congestion
- In some cases, diarrhea and vomiting

If you require more information on H1N1-swine flue, please visit www.cdc.gov/flu/swine or www.dhss.mo.gov



HEALTH

Handling Panhandlers

The best thing anyone can do to reduce the panhandling problem is to give donations to organizations that help deal with these underlying problems, rather than to donate to the panhandlers directly. That only encourages the behavior, and is actually a form of enabling in some cases, as the donation goes immediately to the nearest liquor store or drug dealer. KCPD suggest using the following tips:

- Don't give them money. There are better ways to assist the homeless.
- Acknowledge a panhandler with a nod, and answer the request for money by saying "No". Then, walk away.
- Don't enter into a discussion with panhandlers who try to persuade you to give money.
- Walk with confidence - the streets of Kansas City belong to all of us.
- If you are threatened, harassed, or feel aggressive begging has occurred, call the police. "Aggressive" begging is against the law.
- Don't be fooled - food, shelter, and assistance are available to those in need.

Remember, there are many locations where food, shelter, and medical assistance are being provided for those who are homeless.

Meals-shelter-clothing-showers City Union Mission 1108 E. 10th Street 816-474-9380	Food-shelter Restart Inc. 918 E. 9th 816-472-5664
Meals KC Community Kitchen 413 W. 13th Street 816-474-6524	Shelter-alcohol abuse counseling Kansas City Community Center (KCCC) 1514 Campbell 816-421-6670

Help is available
Donations can be made to:
Homeless Hot Line
816-474-4599

INFORMATION

Les Washington's Farewell & A Letter From David Park

This is my opportunity to thank all the citizens of Kansas City for their passion, dedication and generosity to ensure we have the best city in the country.

Our city offers hundreds of attractions and entertainment spots. Visitors to the city will find so many things to see do and experience in Kansas City. These things range from live concerts, riverboat casinos, museums, Kansas City Jazz and theater productions, to outdoor activities in our beautiful parks. But it is our neighborhoods that determine the health of our City.

I want to thank the Mayor, City Manager and the City Council for their leadership and vision for the City. We are fortunate that this particular group of leaders come with a range of experience. Some were neighborhood leaders, former legislators, former City employees, business and non profit leaders, some even signed up for a second round of service. It takes a substantial investment in our local economy and commitment to basic services to ensure that our City continues to thrive. The fiscal crisis has made the ability to adequately address basic services particularly tough during the last few years. But I am confident that this group of leaders will make decisions with the best interest of Kansas City in mind.

Kansas City is also fortunate to have a wealth of neighborhood leaders and volunteers. These volunteers give selflessly of their time and perform a range of activities. These activities include recruiting volunteers to perform hours of clean ups, implementing public safety programs, educational initiatives, advocating how budget dollars are spent and ensuring the cleanliness of our City remains a top priority. Their efforts have resulted in increased communication and citizen involvement. I have had the pleasure of working with many neighborhoods leaders throughout the City. To continue to thrive neighborhoods must have a true place at the table to provide feedback and determine how resources are prioritized. It is important to create and build positive collaborative partnerships between neighborhoods, community organizations and government; Neighborhoods are the heartbeat of our community!

Finally, What I have come to realize is that those things that are considered barriers are artificial in nature. Whether it is the north / south river divide, the east / west Troost divide or the racial and economic divide, there is one Kansas City. Our plights are tied together. We are all in a boat to somewhere. We must learn to grow together if we are to find solid ground. I encourage you to grow together if we are to ensure that the next generations of Kansas Citians enjoy the great City that I love...

Thank you for allowing me to serve you,

Les

Subsequent to the retirement of Les Washington, our City Manager Wayne Cauthen appointed me as interim Director of Neighborhood and Community Services. Although many of you may know me, I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself and share with you what you can expect from me and Neighborhood and Community Services in the future.

After earning my Bachelors in Science (B.S.) degree in Environmental Health, I utilized these tools to begin my career with the City in 1979 as a Sanitarian in the Environmental Inspections Program. Today Sanitarians are called code enforcement officers and Environmental Inspections Program is referred to as the Neighborhood Preservation Department.

Overgrown weeds, accumulations of trash, and deteriorated housing are unhealthy for people. I understand and know the diseases and health consequences that result from exposure to these conditions. I also have evaluated that these conditions also impact the economic health of neighborhoods and often lead to criminal activities. And, because neighborhoods are the foundation of the city, unhealthy neighborhoods located anywhere in the city create weaknesses in the foundation that supports all neighborhoods, I am aware of the importance of preserving neighborhoods and this has motivated me over the last 30 years to address the community's concerns and continues to do so.

Neighborhood and Community Services priority concern today is the mowing of weeds on vacant properties and the backlog of dangerous buildings to demolish. These are immediate challenges that we willing and ready to assumed responsibility for mowing weeds on privately owned vacant properties this year and are trying out a new process. The goal is to remove trash that is often present when the mowing is performed and to include more contractors in the process. Instead of 2 or 3 big contractors getting all of the work, we wanted to have numerous contractors involved. This creates opportunities for neighborhood-based contractors to participate in the program and provide jobs for neighborhood residents.

The process is working. The appearance of mowed lots has improved and we have nine contractors on board. More contractors may still be added. We have fallen behind schedule however. There are too many properties out there that need to be mowed yet. Our inspectors and contractors are all hustling and working overtime to get caught up.

Dangerous building inspectors are also hustling. There are well over 400 vacant, damaged and dilapidated houses in our neighborhoods that need to be demolished. Funding for demolition became available on May 1, 2009, and we want to demolish as many dangerous buildings as we can and as quickly as we can. You will see an increase in demolition activity this summer.

I want you to know that the Neighborhood and Community Services Department will continue to strive towards improving conditions in our neighborhoods. Les Washington set this direction during his tenure as director and I intend to chart the same course.

I look forward to continue working with you, and for you.

Sincerely,

David Park, Acting Director, Neighborhood and Community Services

Let's Talk Trash

Kansas City's curbside collection program is easy if you just know a few simple rules:

Free weekly curbside pickup for any Kansas City resident that uses Kansas City water services

- > 2 bags of trash, each 40 lbs max (*put smaller bags inside big ones*)
- > For those in the rolling trash cart test areas: the lid **must** close, the trash **must** be in bags
- > Extra bags must have the \$1.00 tag clearly visible!
- > Recyclables in recycle bin (*and other recyclable containers beside the bin if you have too much*)

Trash and recycling should be set out between 3:00 PM the afternoon before collection day and 7:00 AM the day of collection!

For cleanliness, consider setting it out at 7:00 PM or later the day before.

Free curbside BULKY ITEM pick up **by appointment only!** Call **the** 3-1-1 Action Center for an appt.

Free curbside seasonal pick up leaf and brush: once in the fall, once in the spring.

Recycling drop off sites open Wednesday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

North-Metro North Mall, 400 N.W. Barry Road

South-Wal-Mart supercenter parking lot, 9051 Hillcrest Road

Environmental Campus-4707 Deramus

Leaf and Brush drop off sites open Saturdays 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (March- October)

1815 N. Chouteau Traffic way

10301 Raytown Road

Tire drop off site 4707 Deramus, Hours: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Drop off dates for 2009:

- July 11
- Aug. 1
- Sept. 5
- Oct. 3
- Nov. 7

Household hazardous waste drop off site: 4707 Deramus **by appointment only!**

Call 816-784-2080 for an appt.

To maintain a cleaner Kansas City, place your trash/recycling out only on your scheduled collection day. If you are unsure of your collection day, call the 3-1-1 Action Center 816-513-1313. Place your trash only on your property!

Stop trashing Kansas City!



**The City of Kansas City, MO
Neighborhood and Community
Services Department**

Neighborhood Services Division

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TaWana Woodard, Community Liaison

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“If you think education is expensive, try
ignorance!”

~Andy McIntyre



Call the 3-1-1 Action Center to report pot holes, missed trash, street light out, malfunction traffic signals, water main breaks and to nominate your “good neighbors”. You can also fill out a service request online at <http://www.kcmo.org/action>.



9-1-1 is the phone number for police, fire, and medical emergencies; everyone seems to know that by now. But what you may not know is what *constitutes* an emergency, and what doesn't.

- If it will make **any** difference how fast help gets there, don't hesitate to call 9-1-1! A crime in progress or a dangerous situation always calls for the fastest possible response.
- Different types of emergency calls will receive different prioritization, depending on what the risk is to people or property. Don't panic if the dispatcher is asking you lots of questions; they will often have started routing someone your way and then continue to pass on information while they talk to you.



Do you have what it takes to volunteer?
Invest your time with UNITED WAY'S
Ready to Serve Volunteer Program.

A nationwide volunteer program, RSVP invites you to use your life experience and skills to answer the call of your neighbors in need. Giving anywhere from four to 40 hours per week, RSVP volunteers help solve serious problems in the community.

For more information please visit <http://uwgkc.org> or call Betsy Phillips at 816-559-4668.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

Building a deck? Planting a tree? Installing a mailbox? 811 is the new number you should call before you begin any digging project.

811 was created to help protect you from unintentionally hitting underground utility lines while working on digging projects. Every digging job – even small projects like planting trees or shrubs.

If you hit an underground utility line while digging, you can harm yourself or those around you, disrupt service, and potentially be responsible for fines and repair costs. Visit <http://www.call811.com/> for more information on this new service.